

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05873 241539Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-01 SS-15 EB-08 PER-01 SP-02
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R 241245Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9403
INFO AMEMBASSY SANA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USLO RIYADH

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, EAGR, SA, US
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE FOR ARABIAN PENINSULA

REF: STATE 119302

1. SUMMARY: LOCATION FOR ARABIAN PENINSULA FAS UNIT,
SUBJECT TO SPACE/HOUSING CONSIDERATIONS, APPEARS TO HAVE
BEEN NARROWED TO DHAHRAN OR JIDDA AMONG REFTEL ADDRESSEE
POSTS. BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR EXPENDITURES FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ARGUE STRONGLY FOR POSTING AGRI-
CULTURAL ATTACHE IN SAUDI ARABIA. EMBASSY WISHES TO BE
AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE. FAS UNIT WOULD BE WELCOME
ADDITION WHENEVER CHANCERY MOVES TO RIYADH, AND WE WOULD
RECOMMEND THAT COURSE OF ACTION. MEANWHILE, FAS UNIT
COULD BE ACCOMMODATED AT CONGEN DHAHRAN, SUBJECT TO (A)
ADDITIONAL ADMIN/C&R STAFFING, (B) REFURBISHING OF CONGEN
HOUSING, AND (C) PROVISION OF CAR AND DRIVER. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY JIDDA BELIEVES THERE ARE IMPORTANT REASONS
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FOR POSTING AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE IN ARABIAN PENINSULA:
A. SAUDI AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DURING
NEXT THREE YEARS PROJECTED AT \$1 BILLION ANNUALLY.
B. MAJOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ARE
GETTING UNDERWAY IN POULTRY, DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK. THIRD
COUNTRIES (UK) ARE DOMINANT IN WINNING THESE CONTRACTS
AS WELL AS MAJOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON AGRICULTURAL

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT KINGDOM.

C. WESTERN COMMUNITY GROWING RAPIDLY. WHEN COUPLED WITH PERCEPTEBLE CHANGE IN SAUDI DIETARY PATTERNS TOWARD WESTERN-TYPE FOODS, AND INABILITY OF KINGDOM TO INCREASE GREATLY CROP PRODUCTION, UPWARD TREND INEVITABLE IN SAUDI FOOD IMPORT BILL. EUROPEAN COMPETITION INCREASING, ESPECIALLY WEST GERMANY, FOR CONVENIENCE FOODS.

D. ATTACHE COULD CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOPING CONTACTS IN PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL SECTORS, INCLUDING REGULAR TRAVEL TO KEY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCING AREAS OF KINGDOM NOT NOW VISITED EXCEPT ON MOST OCCASIONAL BASIS, AND ALSO YEMEN, WHERE WE UNDERSTAND OVER 50 PER CENT OF ARABIAN PENINSULA'S POPULATION AND AGRICULTURE ARE LOCATED.

3. CHANCERY OFFICE SPACE AND HOUSING FILLED TO OVERFLOWING AT JIDDA. THERE IS NO REPEAT NO WAY JIDDA COULD ACCOMMODATE FAS UNIT NOW EXCEPT THAT FAS RENT VILLA AND OFFICE SPACE OFF EMBASSY COMPOUND. ESTIMATED COST PAYABLE THREE YEARS IN ADVANCE WOULD BE \$240,000. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME FAS UNIT AS PART OF NEW COMPLEX TO BE ESTABLISHED AT RIYADH WHENEVER THAT MOVE (NOT IMMINENT) IS ACCOMPLISHED. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT FAS BE INCLUDED IN PLANNING FOR CHANCERY AT RIYADH.

4. AS INTERIM SOLUTION, FAS UNIT COULD BE ACCOMMODATED AT CONSULATE GENERAL DHAHRAN, SUBJECT TO CONGEN OBSERV-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATIONS WHICH FOLLOW:

A. CONGEN COULD NOT ACCEPT ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN, AS PRESENTLY STAFFED AND FUNDED, OF SUPPORTING ANOTHER OFFICER AND SECRETARY.

B. CONGEN DOES HAVE SUFFICIENT LAND AND HOUSING TO SUPPORT FAS UNIT. CONGEN HAS SEVERAL ONE AND TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS AND ONE TWO-BEDROOM HOUSE WHICH COULD BE ENLARGED AND MODERNIZED FOR HOUSING/OFFICE SPACE WERE USDA WILLING TO FUND REFURBISHING AND MAINTENANCE.

C. CONGEN RECOMMENDS ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE/C&R COMBINED POSTION SINCE PRESENT STAFFING DOES NOT INCLUDE GSO AND POST HAS ONLY ONE C&R SLOT.

D. USDA WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE CAR AND DRIVER. CONGEN COULD NOT SUPPORT FAS UNIT WITH PRESENT MOTOR POOL RESOURCES.

5. PROVIDED USDA IS INTERESTED IN LOCATING FAS UNIT IN SAUDI ARABIA SUBJECT TO LIMITATIONS NOTED, EMBASSY JIDDA RECOMMENDS THAT NEA/EX, USDA AND CONGEN DHAHRAN CONSULT SOONEST CONCERNING PROBLEMS OF FUNDING AND STAFFING.

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Message Attributes

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